REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The continued rejection of most claims as allegedly anticipated by Yohe '943 or, in the case of claims 2 and 3, as allegedly being made "obvious" based on Yohe in further view of Atkinson '012 or Farber '791 respectively are all once again respectfully traversed.

The Examiner is thanked for providing an explanatory "Response to Arguments" section so the applicant can understand why the Examiner has found earlier argumentation/amendment not to be persuasive. So as to avoid repetition in the record, earlier argumentation will not be herein repeated. However, it should be understood that the prior grounds for traversal are hereby incorporated by reference.

It is again noted that Yohe and the presently claimed invention are different at a fundamental level. Yohe presents a client-server system in which a file server **does** serve a file if it has been changed. The present invention presents a client-server system in which a file server **does not** serve a file if it has been changed.

Even if, *arguendo*, the premise of the Examiner's argument is taken to be correct, the wrong conclusion is reached.

For example, the premise of the Examiner's argument comes in two parts:

a)   "Yohe teaches sending back, always, a <u>bad response</u> if the digital signature associated with that file is <u>invalid</u> regardless [of whether] the data file is

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locked or not upon the file request i.e. sending back a bad response alone if the data file status is unlocked or sending back a bad response along with the requested file [sic: 'read data'] if the data file is unlocked [sic: 'locked']; and

   b) According to DICTIONARY.com, "deny" is interpreted as "to declare untrue"...

The Examiner then equates a <u>bad response</u> with denial of access to the file and finds that applicant's claim is anticipated. But if one follows the flow-chart of Yohe's Figure 6 (which Figure is about the operation of the remote client – see col. 3 lines 43 to 45), it will be seen that a bad response leads to the 'No' branch in step 324 which in turn leads to the Network File Cacher finding whether the file is locked in step 326. If the file is not locked, **then the remote client retrieves the file from the file server computer**. If the file is locked then **the data will have been returned with the response** (step 328).

Hence, following the Examiner's premise shows that whether the file is locked or not, <u>a 'bad response' leads to the remote client retrieving the data in the file</u>. Hence a 'bad response' <u>does not</u> make the contents of the file "virtually inaccessible". Instead a 'bad response' results in the remote client downloading the file's contents.

Although, DICTIONARY.com actually gives several interpretations of 'deny' none of them go so far as to suggest that 'deny' might mean 'allow' -- as would apparently have to be the case to support the Examiner's assertion.
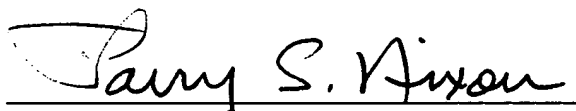
The second strand of rationale in the Examiner's "response to arguments" section is that the expression 'digital signature' includes within its scope the Cyclic Redundancy Checksum seen in Yohe. Applicant's specification does point out the difference between checksums and 'digital signatures' t page 3, line 12 to page 5, line 16. In any event, the independent claims have been amended to make it clear that the digital signatures are generated using a signing key.

Accordingly, this entire application is now believed to be in allowable condition and a formal Notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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